

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF  
LIEUTENANT LONNIE T.  
VINESETT, JR.

### HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2022*

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the outstanding career of Lieutenant Lonnie T. Vinesett, Jr., a dedicated community leader and honorable police officer.

Known as “Bubba” or “Terry” to his friends and family, Lt. Vinesett grew up in Indian Land. At the age of 14, he entered the Cadet Program at the Fort Mill Police Department. Shortly after, he became a security guard for Mercy Hospital. At the age of 21, Lt. Vinesett was hired by the Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office, where he began his police career. During his time with the Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office, he proudly served the same community he grew up in and loved deeply.

In 1999, Lt. Vinesett was hired by the York County Sheriff’s Office—his ultimate goal when he began his police career. During his tenure with the York County Sheriff’s Office, he experienced major milestones in his career and received numerous accolades and awards. For example, in 2007, Lt. Vinesett was working on Operation Rolling Thunder, a multi-jurisdiction operation based in Spartanburg, during which he made a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling from Atlanta to Washington, D.C. Lt. Vinesett found a secret compartment with 35 kilos of cocaine—the fourth largest interdiction drug stop in South Carolina state history.

Later in his career, Lt. Vinesett attended a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) training on combatting sex trafficking. Shortly after this training, he and then Master Deputy Phillip Aldridge were monitoring a known website for prostitution in the Charlotte area and observed a female that appeared to be underage. The two quickly began their operation and, in consultation with the FBI, investigated and charged the man involved. This was the first case of a successful prosecution and conviction for sex trafficking of a child in South Carolina state history. Lt. Vinesett and Master Deputy Phillip Aldridge received the Merit Award from Sheriff Tolson and a recommendation from then FBI Director James Comey.

Lt. Vinesett consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty. In addition to these well-deserved accolades, he has dedicated countless hours to volunteering for community events and serving the school district in which he lives. Lt. Vinesett leads by example and has served as a guide for his children, family, and friends. He has never met a stranger, and his colleagues describe him as a “mentor and leader” to all. These stories are not outliers for a day in the life of Lt. Vinesett. His sense of service and selflessness is above reproach, leading him to earn the respect of law enforcement and citizens all over the state. His 25-year career is a testament to all the good our men and women in blue do for our communities. On behalf of the 5th District of South Carolina, I thank Lt. Vinesett for his continued sacrifice and service, and I congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

HUNTER CLARK

### HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2022*

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, last month, I had the honor of presenting Hunter Clark with Congressional record paperwork and a challenge coin at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Hunter currently attends St. Augustine’s Prep in Richland, South Jersey and plans to attend American University in the fall. He achieved the Eagle Scout ranking as a part of Daretown Troop 60. For his Eagle Scout project, Hunter made some improvements to the beach at Camp Edge in Alloway, New Jersey. Camp Edge is part of Ranch Hope Ministries and provides care and outreach to troubled boys in the South Jersey community, as well as hosts a camp during the summer for kids of all ages. Hunter replaced some of the timber boundaries on the beach at Camp Edge. In addition, he added fishing pole hangers to the beach. Hunter should be proud of his service to South Jersey, and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors at American University. God Bless Hunter, and God Bless our United States of America.

### PROTECTING OUR KIDS ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2022*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Protecting Our Kids Act, legislation in response to the gun violence that is affecting our communities, especially our children.

Mr. Speaker, our communities continue to be ripped apart by gun violence. In the high-profile recent mass shootings in Buffalo, NY and Uvalde, TX shootings, 31 lives were lost, and many more lives were tossed into turmoil because of the actions of armed individuals. It is too easy for guns to end up in the wrong hands.

According to the Washington Post, there have been 61 mass shootings in the month of May alone. It is important that we protect our children and our communities from gun violence.

What is more important than protecting our children? Which is why I again call on the Senate to act on the commonsense legislation the House has already passed to expand background checks (H.R. 8) and our bill to close the Charleston loophole to help keep guns out of the hands of prohibited buyers.

And this week, the House will consider legislation to put in place effective and commonsense protections that can help stop gun violence and contribute to safer communities.

This includes the bill on the floor today that would bar those under the age 21 from purchasing semiautomatic rifles. The legislation would also largely bar the sale, transfer, or possession of large capacity ammunition feeding devices, create new gun trafficking penalties including for straw purchasers who buy guns to pass on to someone who is pro-

hibited from having one, and would strengthen regulations against hard to trace “ghost guns” that are turning up at more and more crime scenes in our communities.

We must do everything in our power to protect our children. Our children must be able to feel safe in their classrooms. Or the movie theater. Or in their place of worship. Our seniors and others must feel safe to go to the grocery store.

This legislation is a start. But there is more that we can and must do, including increasing investments in our children and communities such as my bill to provide grants to community-based organizations to provide deescalation training to help keep conflicts from turning violence or escalating in the first place.

I urge support of this bill.

CONGRATULATING ALICE SOTELO  
ON HER WIN AT THE IHSA  
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN TRACK  
AND FIELD

### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2022*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alice Sotelo, a junior from Sterling High School who won the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Class 2A State Triple Jump title.

Alice won the 2A State Title in the triple jump with a final clearance distance of 11.36 meters, setting a new school record. It was also her fourth time setting a new school record in the last month. As a former athlete, I commend her for her determination and attitude. Alice is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic. I am proud to see her represent Sterling so well throughout the state and the country with her talent and passion.

It is because of student leaders such as Alice that I am especially proud to serve Illinois’ 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Alice Sotelo on her Class 2A State Title in the triple jump.

MATT WESCOTT

### HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2022*

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, last month, I had the honor of attending Matt Wescott’s Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony. Matt attained his Eagle Scout ranking as a member of Boy Scout Troop 60 in Daretown, South Jersey. For his Eagle Scout project, Matt led some of his fellow scouts in building a Gaga Ball pit at Alloway School. Gaga Ball is a very popular game with elementary and middle schoolers in the South Jersey community. However, the game needs to be played inside of an octagonal shaped court, which is why Matt decided to build the school a court. This will provide years of entertainment for the Alloway community and students. Matt should be proud of his project, and it was my honor to have had the opportunity to recognize him for his service to the